Assignment 1

Summary

The paper investigates the emergence of scaling in random networks. It discusses how many large networks, such as genetic, social, and the World Wide Web, demonstrate a scale-free power-law distribution of vertex connectivities. This was an unexpected revelation with respect to large, complex networks. Traditional random graph models, like the Erdos and Renyi (ER) model, assume random and uniform connectivity, i.e., the assumption is that there are no vertices with extensive connections. However, we can observe that the real networks show preferential connectivity and have a scale-invariant state.

Therefore, to mimic the actual nature of the networks, the authors propose a new model. The new model suggests incorporating two fundamental means: continuous network expansion by adding new vertices and preferential attachment of new vertices to already well-connected sites. Thus, we observe that the probability distribution of the number of edges a vertex has is independent of time, and we get a stable and scale-free network. The proposed model successfully reproduces the observed scale-free distributions in large networks. The paper concludes that self-organizing phenomena control the growth of large networks. Also, the specifics of individual systems do not affect this property.

1)
A scale-free network is a network type where vertex connectivity distribution follows a power-law distribution. We can describe it as the probability that a vertex interacts with a certain number of other vertices and decays as a power law. This means there are a few highly connected vertices with many connections and many weakly connected vertices.

2)
Scale-Free Network:

- The distribution of vertex connectivities follows a power-law distribution.
- The scale-free network assumes preferential attachment, indicating a few highly connected vertices.

ER Model:

- The distribution of vertex connectivities in the ER model follows a Poisson distribution, which does not exhibit the scale-free feature observed in real networks.
- The ER model assumes that there is a random connection between the vertices.

3)
The most striking aspect of the paper is the discovery that large networks self-organize into a scale-free state. This finding challenges existing random network models and suggests that growth and preferential attachment are important factors in constructing real networks.

4)
The paper needs to provide specific details about the databases or examples used to demonstrate the scale-free nature of large networks. Additionally, it does not elaborate on the proposed model's growth and preferential attachment mechanisms. Further clarification on these aspects would have been helpful.

Anushree Kolhe